

Ngee Ann Student Wins Best Pitcher Award at the Co-operative Youth Summit 2016

Shawn Hoh, a Year-2 Business & Social Enterprise (BZSE) student gave an impressive pitch that earned him the Best Pitcher Award. "It was certainly my proudest moment, when I was nominated as the best pitcher among those pitchers – Singapore's pride! But I really have to thank my team (XuanTing, Joanne, Sean and Angela) for this. It wouldn't be possible without them," said Shawn.

Teams were required to put up Co-operative Business Model pitches i.e. serves to meet a community's needs through a sustainable way. Out of 17 pitches from 14 countries, his team came in second place at the summit too. Titled "Migrant Solutions Co-op Ltd", their pitch was about removing the middle men from the hiring process so the migrant workers can work safely in Singapore without exploitations.

The other team, representing "WeCater Co-op Ltd", presented a pitch for promoting healthy living among the working class. To do that, their plan was to provide catering in the Central Business District (CBD) through a youth-owned worker co-operative. Organised by International Co-operative Alliance (Asia and Pacific) from 19 September to 24 September 2016, the inaugural Coop Youth Summit 2016 aims to empower youths to think of ideas on building a sustainable future through the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

For the first time, 10 Ngee Ann students embarked on a trip to Bali to attend the inaugural summit. Split into two teams, students engaged in a friendly pitch battle between delegates from 14 different countries – which was an eye-opener for them!

"I was expecting the delegates to be mostly around my age. Instead, they were in their mid- 20s and some of them were responsible for managing their local co-op businesses or working for a co-op," said Joanne Kwok, a Year-2 BME student.

"It was through this summit that made me think a lot about the social issues. As a business student, it was a good learning experience that let me see things from different angles," said Sean Lim, a Year-3 BS student.



When we ask our students if they had any favourite speaker at the summit, it has to be "Farmer" Sangay Rinchen. Hailing from Bhutan, he's also the founder and CEO of Happy Green Co-operative Ltd. At the summit, they were moved by how he spoke and delivered his speech with charm. "He's not afraid of being imaginative and the way he presented his ideology is charismatic. You have to be there to experience his charisma," said Sean.

The summit was an inspiring event that showcased various ideas for a better world. Through this experience, our students have learnt that different cultural backgrounds play a part in shaping the way they think and act. Above all,



they benefited greatly from the insights, and the priceless bonds forged with their fellow attendees.

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